

NASA Artemis II Moon Mission Launch Inspires Future Exploration - Intermediate - EN

Science

English

Article

NASA launched its Artemis II mission from Florida on Wednesday evening, sending four astronauts toward the moon and exciting huge crowds along the Space Coast. The towering orange-and-white rocket rose at 6:35 p.m. Eastern and headed over the Atlantic Ocean. Spectators packed nearby beaches, hugged, and cheered as a bright column of fire and a long white trail crossed the clear sky.

The crew — Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen — is traveling aboard the spacecraft Integrity. Their trip will cover more than 695,000 miles. They will fly around the moon and return to Earth without landing, testing whether the spacecraft can safely carry humans on future lunar missions. NASA says the mission is a major step toward new moon landings and a lasting human presence there.

Artemis II also includes several historic firsts. Glover will become the first Black man to travel into deep space, Koch the first woman, and Hansen the first non-American to join a moon mission of this kind. The last time astronauts traveled this far was Apollo 17 in 1972.

Engineers solved several technical problems during the countdown, including issues involving the rocket safety system and a sensor in the crew escape system. After liftoff, controllers briefly lost the ability to hear the astronauts, and the crew also reported a toilet problem. Even so, NASA called the launch a success. If the rest of the mission goes well, Artemis II will help open the way for astronauts to return to the moon by the end of the decade.

Vocabulary Words List

towering — extremely tall launched — sent into space astronaut — a person trained to travel in space spectators — people watching an event packed — filled tightly with people column — a tall rising shape trail — a line left behind spacecraft — a vehicle designed for space travel trip — a journey from one place to another cover — to travel across a distance safely — without danger lunar — related to the moon presence — continued being in a place historic — important in history deep space — space far beyond Earth countdown — the final timed steps before launch engineers — people who design or fix machines issues — problems sensor — a device that detects information escape system — equipment that helps a crew get away from danger controllers — people guiding a mission from the ground reported — gave information about success — a good result decade — a period of ten years crew — the people working together on a spacecraft mission — an organized journey with a goal surface — the outside part of something return — to come back orbit — the curved path around a planet or moon exploration — travel to learn about new places

Fill In The Blanks Listening Practice

NASA _____ its Artemis II _____ from Florida on Wednesday evening, sending four astronauts toward the moon and exciting huge crowds along the Space Coast. The _____ orange-and-white rocket rose at 6:35 p.m. Eastern and headed over the Atlantic Ocean. _____ nearby beaches, hugged, and cheered as a bright _____ of fire and a long white _____ crossed the clear sky. The _____ — Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen — is traveling aboard the _____ Integrity. Their _____ will _____ more than 695,000 miles. They will fly around the moon and _____ to Earth without landing, testing whether the spacecraft can _____ carry humans on future _____ missions. NASA says the mission is a major step toward new moon landings and a lasting human _____ there. Artemis II also includes several _____ firsts. Glover will become the first Black man to travel into _____, Koch the first woman, and Hansen the first non-American to join a moon mission of this kind. The last time astronauts traveled this far was Apollo 17 in 1972. _____ solved several technical problems during the _____, including _____ involving the rocket safety system and a _____ in the crew _____. After liftoff, _____ briefly lost the ability to hear the astronauts, and the crew also _____ a toilet problem. Even so, NASA called the launch a _____. If the rest of the mission goes well, Artemis II will help open the way for astronauts to return to the moon by the end of the _____.

Vocabulary Retention Quiz

1. What was the main goal of Artemis II?
2. How far is the round trip expected to be?
3. Who will become the first woman to travel into deep space on this mission?
4. What technical issue happened after liftoff?
5. Why is Artemis II important for future moon plans?

Discussion Questions

Why do you think big space missions still matter today? How can a mission without a moon landing still be important? Do historic “firsts” on a mission change how people see space exploration?

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